

March 1, 2009

Dear Neighborhood Leader:

It's Broken. Let's Fix It. This refers to the South Carolina Criminal Justice System as it stands today. We have all taken notice of the increase in the danger of violence from repeat violent criminals who have easy access to illegal handguns and other firearms. We watch the swinging door as these criminals are out on bail and commit further crimes.

Recently, a group of law enforcement professionals, mayors, solicitors, victim advocates, and members of other criminal justice organizations from around the State met in Columbia to form the South Carolina Criminal Legislative Coalition. Our goal is to improve the criminal justice system by having our legislators pass new laws that target repeat offenders, making all of our lives safer.

The only way to accomplish this goal is for you to get involved and strongly encourage your state legislators to support the Coalition's package of proposed legislation. We need your help now as bills we have proposed are already making their way out of the Senate and into the House of Representatives. S. 191 will reach the House in the coming days and your support can help get it passed. We ask that you act now so that we can get these important bills passed before the legislators adjourn in May. There are a variety of ways you can help:

- Send your legislators a letter or email calling for immediate action on this matter (attached is a draft that you can use).
- Write a letter to the editor demanding action now (attached is a draft you can use).

You can see the tragic consequences of our current system every day in the newspaper or on television. But, if all of us do our part and let our legislators know how important this is, we will be able to pass this important crime package in our General Assembly.

It's Broken. Let's Fix It!

Sincerely,

Gregory G. Mullen
Chief of Police